

This map may be downloaded at www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd and scroll down to Related Links.

There is great diversity among the 12 Tribal Nations of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories and governments. Each Nation has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.

Reservations:	Tribal Nations:
Flathead	Salish, Kootenai, Pend d'Oreille
Blackfeet	Blackfeet
Rocky Boy's	Chippewa, Cree
Fort Belknap	Gros Ventre, Assiniboine
Fort Peck	Dakota, Assiniboine
Northern Cheyenne	Northern Cheyenne
Crow	Crow

The Little Shell Chippewa Tribe is without a reservation or land base and members live in various parts of Montana. They are in the process of seeking federal recognition.

According to the 2000 Census, 35 percent of Montana's Indian population do not live on reservations, but instead reside in small communities or urban areas of Montana. The individual history and circumstances of Montana's urban Indian people are as diverse as the people themselves.

(Source: *Essential Understandings about Montana Indians*
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/indianed/essentialunderstandngs.pdf>)

Message from Linda

I am committed to helping our schools successfully implement Indian Education for All so that every student leaves our public education system with an understanding of the rich history and contemporary issues of Montana's Indian people.

Before Montana educators can teach our children about Montana's Indian people, they need to know what resources are available to help. This pamphlet provides information and links for readily available classroom resources allocated by the 2005 Legislature. If you have lessons and ideas to teach about Montana's Indians, please send them to me so that we can share them on our OPI Web site.

It is important for all Montanans to understand one another. Together we will ensure that Indian Education for All becomes a reality for all of our students.

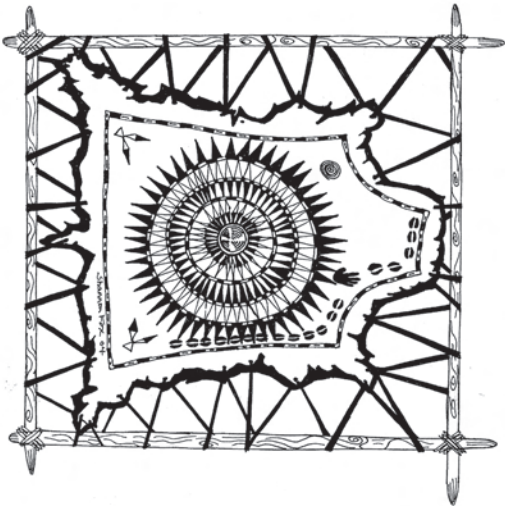
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For more information, contact:
The OPI Indian Education Office at (406) 444-3694 or
www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd.

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Indian Education for All



"Indian Education for All" is about all students in all Montana schools learning about Montana's first people.



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What is Indian Education for All?

In 1972 language was added to the Montana Constitution Article X, Section 1(2):

The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.
leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp

To codify the state constitution, in 1999 the Legislature passed House Bill 528 into law -- MCA 20-1-501 -- what has become known as Indian Education for All.

Every Montanan ... whether Indian or non-Indian, be encouraged to learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians in a culturally responsive manner. ... all school personnel should have an understanding and awareness of Indian tribes to help them relate effectively with Indian students and parents. ... Every educational agency and all educational personnel will work cooperatively with Montana tribes ... when providing instruction and implementing an educational goal.
data.opi.mt.gov/bills/billhtml/HB0528.htm

Who needs to learn about Indian Education for All?

It's for every Montanan. It's for every school district. It's for every student to be provided an opportunity to learn about their tribal neighbors.



How do schools implement Indian Education for All?

- Montana's accreditation standards provide guidelines for the implementation of Indian Education for All. www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd/EdforAll.html.
- School Trustees must have an approved policy for Indian Education for All and a plan for curriculum development and teacher training.
- Indian Education for All and Indian student achievement are closely linked. Schools that reflect the cultures they serve support student learning. When teaching about contemporary and historical issues related to American Indians, the information should be accurate and tribally specific. Assessment of American Indian students' progress, attendance, parent support, and high school completion rates can also be used as barometers for successful implementation of Indian Education for All.



Examples of Indian Education for All in Montana's Content Standards for 8th Grade Social Science

- Identify characteristics of American Indian tribes and other cultural groups in Montana.
- Identify the significance of tribal sovereignty and Montana tribal governments' relationship to local, state and federal governments.
- Analyze the conflicts resulting from cultural assimilation and cultural preservation among various ethnic and racial groups in Montana, the United States and the world.
- To relate in a meaningful way to another human being one must be able to communicate. Studying world languages, whether modern, classical or American Indian, enormously increases one's ability to understand culture and to see connections.
- www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Standards/SocStChart.pdf

An example of integrating Indian Education for All into existing curriculum might be:

- A science class studying astronomy can integrate into the unit on the stars the importance of the Morning Star to the Northern Cheyenne people who call themselves the "Morning Star People."



Where are resources to implement Indian Education for All?

- Visit the OPI Indian Education Web site at www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd to find resources, sample lessons, and helpful publications.
- The OPI is working with educators from across the state to develop teacher-friendly model lessons to help schools implement Indian Education for All. The model lessons will be posted on the OPI Indian Education Web site as they become available.

Speakers

Montana Committee for the Humanities Speakers Bureau (406) 243-6022 or www2.umt.edu/lastbest/Speakers.htm
Tribal Colleges and Tribal Education Directors at www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/DirIndianEd.pdf.

Visiting Artists

Montana Arts Council (406) 444-6430 or www.art.mt.gov

Future Resources

The Legislature appropriated funds in 2005 to the OPI for the development of Indian Education for All model curriculums, classroom materials, professional development and grants for schools to demonstrate best practices. Tribal colleges were appropriated funds to develop tribal histories for use by K-12 schools. For more information, contact the OPI Indian Education Office at (406) 444-3694.

